

SHOCK ABSORPTION DEVICE OF A RUNNING APPARATUS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention:

5 [0001] The present invention is related to a shock absorption device of a running apparatus and particularly to a shock absorption device, which is provided with a shock absorbing elastic member at the rear side of a running apparatus to protect the knees of the user from injury.

2. Brief Description of the Related Art:

[0002] The running apparatus has become one of basic fittings for indoor sports nowadays but 10 there is deficiency in the currently used running apparatus. Due to the moving human body being incompatible for high speed operation of the running apparatus, it often occurs the ankles and the knees being hurt. It is known that the body moves and the ground is stationary during a person running for taking exercise on the ground and the body can move forward after the feet touching the ground and keeping the body being in a steady state. However, the foot pedal of the running 15 apparatus keeps moving while the runner keeps moving on the foot pedal during running and the runner has to adjust movements of the ankles and the knees to comply with moving speed of the foot pedal in a way of the upper part of the body keeping unmoving. Hence, it is very easy for the ankles and the knees to get hurt during the feet trying to keep the body in a state of balance and to support the body weight. In addition, the foot pedal is made of hard metal and once the feet 20 contact the foot pedal, injury at the ankles and knees becomes more serious due to acceleration of gravity exerted by the body.

[0003] Referring to Fig. 1, one of the conventional running apparatus is illustrated to add with a cushion design for decreasing burden of foot joints and knee joints against the acceleration of gravity in order to overcome the preceding deficiency of the ankles and the knees being easily 25 getting hurt. The running apparatus 10 provides a foot pedal 11 is fixedly attached to the a lifted base 14 and an elevation device 12 is disposed at the front side of the lifted base 14 with a fulcrum roller 13 at the rear side of the lifted base 14. When the elevation device 12 moves upward and downward, the fulcrum roller 13 acts as a fixed rotational shaft during the foot pedal 11 forming an inclining position or a horizontal position.

30 [0004] The running apparatus disclosed in Taiwanese Patent Application Nos. 92204569 and 91221543 are provided with a suspension component and a cushion member in the elevation device 12 of the preceding conventional running apparatus to offset the acceleration of gravity generated by the body weight by way of elasticity during the user running on the foot pedal so as

to protect the ankles and the knees. However, the revised elevation device 12 has affected the whole structure of the running apparatus and has to change relative motion between the elevation device 12 and rest parts in the running apparatus. Hence, it adds difficulty to make a change and high fabrication cost of the running apparatus.

- 5 [0005] Referring to Figs. 2 and 3, a recently improved running apparatus provides a soft pad 15, which is disposed under the lifted base 14, to be supported with a circular member 16 therein for strengthen the soft pad 15. The circular member 16 has a screw 17 at the center thereof for fastening the bottom of the running apparatus. A joining surface 18 between the circular member 16 and the lifted base 14 should not be covered with the soft pad 15, otherwise, it is hard to
10 obtain a required tightness between the circular member 16 and the lifted base 14. Thus, the preceding arrangement has the following shortcomings:

1. It is not possible for the exposed soft pad to be fixedly attached to the bottom of running apparatus with a tool such that it results in unfavorable steadiness of the running apparatus.

- 15 2. The soft pad is damaged easily under being subjected a force such that it has to face a risk of loosening. If a tool is used for fixing the soft pad, it is easy to break the soft pad.

3. The soft pad provides a thickness only enough for decreasing noise resulting from impact and reducing the sound decibel.

- 20 4. The soft pad easily detaches from the circular member under a force in case of the joining surface being covered with the soft pad in addition to improper engagement.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

- [0006] An object of the present invention is to provide a shock absorption device of a running apparatus with which a simple elastic member is mounted at the bottom of the running apparatus
25 to perform more effective shock absorption easily for various brands of running apparatuses in different sizes and to lower the fabrication cost thereof.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- [0007] The detail structure, the applied principle, the function and the effectiveness of the present
30 invention can be more fully understood with reference to the following description and accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a conventional running apparatus;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of another conventional running apparatus;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view of a cushion pad in the running apparatus shown in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a plan view of a shock absorption device in a preferred embodiment according to the present invention;

Fig. 5 is a plan view of a shock absorption device in another preferred embodiment
5 according to the present invention;

Fig. 6 is a sectional view of a shock absorption device in a further preferred embodiment according to the present invention;

Fig. 7 is a sectional view of a shock absorption device in a further preferred embodiment according to the present invention;

10 Fig. 8 is a sectional view of a shock absorption device in a further preferred embodiment according to the present invention;

Fig. 9 is a sectional view of a shock absorption device in a further preferred embodiment according to the present invention; and

15 Fig. 10 is a sectional view of a shock absorption device in a further preferred embodiment according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0008] Referring to Fig. 4, the first preferred embodiment of a shock absorption device of a running apparatus according to the present invention is illustrated. It can be seen in Fig. 4 that a support frame 23 is provided at the bottom of the lifted base 14 with a reinforced member 21 being joined to the pivotal shaft 24 of the support frame 23 and an elastic member 20 is disposed under the reinforced member 21. The function of shock absorption can be enhanced by way of the thickness of the elastic member 20 being increased. Further, the pivotal shaft 24 can retain the lifted base 14 at a fixed position and the circular surface of the elastic member 20 is capable of providing an auxiliary function for the lifted base 14 to turn an angle.

[0009] When the user runs on the running apparatus, the elastic member 20 is in a state of alternately being compressed and stretching to perform the function of shock absorption because of the elastic member 20 having a greater thickness. Thus, the lifted base 14 at a side of the elastic member 20 can move downward and upward to relieve the ankles and the knees from occurred impact during running so as to protect the ankles and the knees from getting hurt and overcome the shortcoming of the prior art, which can reduce noise only.

[0010] Referring to Fig. 5, another preferred embodiment of the shock absorption device according to the present invention is illustrated. A support frame 23 is provided at the bottom of

the lifted base 14 and a pivotal shaft 24 is disposed at the middle position of the support frame 23 to be joined to a cushion seat 25. A foot base 26 is disposed under the cushion seat 25 and slide rods 31 are disposed in between to join the cushion seat 25 and the foot base 26 together. An elastic member 27 is arranged to surround each of the slide rods 31.

- 5 [0011] The lifted base 14 rotates with respect to the pivotal shaft 24 during ascending and descending to keep the horizontal stability of the shock absorption device. In case of the lifted base 14 ascending and forming an inclining position, it is not possible for the lifted base 14 to touch the shock absorption device so that a smooth movement of the lifted base 14 can be obtained. In case of the lifted base 14 descending under force and the cushion seat 25 moving
- 10 downward and compressing the elastic member 27, the slide rods 31 can partly insert into the cushion seat 25. The cushion seat 25 and the lifted base 14 are pushed backward due to rebounding power of the elastic member 27 while no force is executed so that the pressing down force can be absorbed to perform the function of cushion and the foot base 26 can keep steady to support the lifted base 14.
- 15 [0012] Referring to Fig. 6, a further preferred embodiment of the shock absorption device according to the present invention is illustrated. The support frame 25 has a pivotal shaft 24 at the middle position thereof to join with a cushion seat 25 and a support base 28 is disposed below the cushion seat 25 with an elastic member 27 being arranged between the support base 28 and the cushion seat 24. Another elastic member 29 is arranged under the support base 28 with a
- 20 receiving space 30 therein and lower part of the slide rods 31 can enter the receiving space 31 and move forward and backward in the receiving space 31 while the cushion seat 25 moves downward so as to perform the function of cushion during the lifted base 14 moving upward and downward. In the mean time, sensitivity of cushion can be enhanced by way of both the elastic members 27, 29 to achieve an effect of prevention of sport injury.
- 25 [0013] Referring to Fig. 7, a further embodiment of the present invention is illustrated. A soft pad member 22 is arranged on the cushion seat 25. When the lifted base 14 rotates with respect to the pivotal shaft 24, the soft pad 22 can eliminate impact sound caused by the support frame 23 hitting the cushion seat 25 and protect the shock absorption device from damage due to impact. In addition, the lifted base 14 can contact the cushion seat 25 via the soft pad 22 to lighten load of
- 30 the pivotal shaft 24. Especially, when the lifted base 14 moves upward to form an inclining angle, which results in change of executing force, and the body weight and gravity increase the load acting the pivotal shaft during running, the lifted base 14 contacts with the cushion seat 25 to lessen action of the load and the circular surface of the elastic member 29 becomes the rotational

surface instead of the pivotal shaft 24. Hence, no impedance is produced during the lifted base 14 ascending.

[0014] Referring to Fig. 8, a further embodiment of the shock absorption device according to the present invention is illustrated. The slide rods 31 are provided on the support frame 23' such that the circular surface of the elastic member 29 becomes the rotational surface during the lifted base 14 rotating and forming an inclining angle. It is noted that the present embodiment has the same function as the preceding embodiment.

[0015] Referring to Fig. 9, a further embodiment is illustrated. The upper end of an elastic member 32 has a support base 33 with a slide rod 34 and another elastic member 35 is arranged to surround the slide rod 34. The slide rod 31 extends into the lifted base 14 and can provide more sensitive shock absorption. The lifted base 14 rotates with respect to the circular surface of the elastic member 32 during ascending.

[0016] Referring to Fig. 10, a further embodiment is illustrated. A support frame 23 with a pivotal shaft 24 is provided under the lifted base 14 and a slide limit piece 36 is provided at center of the pivotal shaft 24 for a slide rod 34 sliding therein. The lifted base 14 rotates with respect to the pivotal shaft 24 during ascending.

[0017] While the invention has been described with referencing to preferred embodiments thereof, it is to be understood that modifications or variations may be easily made without departing from the spirit of this invention, which is defined by the appended claims.

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